

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for synchronizing a portion of cells of a configured set of cells to form a partition, comprising the steps of:

(a) reaching a first rendezvous state;

(b) delaying to allow other cells of said portion to reach said initial

5 rendezvous state; and

(c) transitioning to a second rendezvous state;

wherein cells of said portion independently execute steps (a) through (c) in parallel.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) delays until the earlier of: (i) a predetermined time; (ii) another cell of the portion reaches the second rendezvous state; and (iii) all cells of said configured set of cells reach the first rendezvous state.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(d) constructing a local rendezvous set comprising detected cells of the portion that have reached the second rendezvous state; and

(e) writing said local rendezvous set to a visible location;

5 wherein cells of said portion that have reached said second rendezvous state independently execute steps (d) through (e) in parallel.

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

constructing a global rendezvous set from constructed local rendezvous sets, wherein the global rendezvous set represents a logical intersection of said constructed local rendezvous sets.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

determining a core cell from said global rendezvous set.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:  
determining compatible cells of said global rendezvous set as an alive set,  
wherein said step of determining compatible cells is performed by said core cell.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of:  
programming partition gating controllers to limit adverse transactions  
associated with a partition to said alive set.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:  
establishing an operating system on said partition.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein complex information is utilized to identify  
other cells of the configured set.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said complex information is obtained from a  
service processor.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said complex information is retrieved from a  
cache.

12. A cell for use in a multi partition computer system, wherein said cell comprises partition instructions utilized to join a partition, comprising:

- processor to execute said partition instructions;
- firmware device to store said partition instructions;
- 5 code to set a register reflecting a first rendezvous state;
- code to delay partition formation operations after setting said register to reflect said first rendezvous state; and
- code to transition to a second rendezvous state after delaying partition formation operations.

13. The cell of claim 12 wherein said partition instructions are executed in parallel in association with partition instructions executed by other cells of a configured set.

14. The cell of claim 13 further comprising:

- code for constructing a local rendezvous set comprising detected cells of the configured set that have reached the second rendezvous state; and
- code for writing said local rendezvous set to a visible location.

15. The cell of claim 14 further comprising:

- code for retrieving local rendezvous sets generated by other cells of said configured set; and
- code for constructing a global rendezvous set from constructed local
- 5 rendezvous sets, wherein the global rendezvous set represents a logical intersection of constructed local rendezvous sets.

16. The cell of claim 15 further comprising:  
code for determining a core cell from said global rendezvous set; and  
code for determining compatible cells of said global rendezvous set as an alive  
set, wherein said code for determining compatible cells is executed when the cell is  
5 determined to be the core cell.

17. The cell of claim 16 further comprising:  
code for programming at least one partition gating controller to limit adverse  
transactions associated with a partition to said alive set.

18. The cell of claim 13 wherein complex information is utilized to identify other  
cells of the configured set.

19. The cell of claim 18 wherein said complex information is retrieved from a  
cache.

20. The cell of claim 12 wherein said code for delaying partition formation  
operations delays until the earliest of: (i) a predetermined time; (ii) another cell of the  
configured set of cell reaches the second rendezvous state; and (iii) all cells of said configured  
set of cells reach the initial rendezvous state.